of nature. In other words, science confesses the fact of life to be inexplicable. Professor Lionel Beale says:—

" There is mystery in life,—a mystery that has never been fathomed, and which appears greater the more deeply the phenomena of life are studied and contemplated. In living centres,—far more central than centres seen by the highest magnifying powers— in centres of living matter, where the eye cannot penetrate, but towards which the understanding may tend, proceed changes of the nature of which the most advanced physicists and chemists fail to afford us the conception. Nor is there the slightest reason to think that the nature of these changes will ever be ascertained by physical investigation, inasmuch as they are certainly of an order totally distinct from that to which any other phenomena known to us can be relegated.

11 Between the living state of matter and its non-living state there is an absolute and irreconcilable difference ; that, so far from our being able to demonstrate that the non-living passes by gradations into or gradually assumes the state or condition of the living, the transition is sudden and abrupt; and that matter already in the living state may pass into the non-living condition in the same sudden and complete manner. The formation of bioplasm direct from non-living matter is impossible even in thought; except to one who sets absolutely at naught the facts of physics and chemistry."

Dr. Annie Besant thus reasons :—

(t If from the blind clash of atoms and the

hurling forces there
comes no explanation of Life and of Mind,
if these remain *sui generis,*
if they loom larger and larger as causes
rather than as effects, who
shall blame the searcher after Truth, when,
failing to find how Life
can spring from force and matter, he seeks
whether Life be not itself
the Centre, and whether every form of
matter may not be the garment
wherewith veils itself an Eternal and
Universal Life ? "

Onward in the march of evolution, the aforesaid life-giving protoplasmic matter^ mysteriously goes on building itself up into more and more highly organised forms in the vegetable "kingdom, from the simplest sea-weed to the mighty royal oak, till at last it becomes the seat of *consciousness,* a still more inexplicable and unprecedented phenomenon. This consciousness-sustaining-life-substance, says Science, next branches out and pushes along the line of progression